

Drought assistance to Assam

1053. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the parts of Assam earlier hit by heavy floods and rains have been hit by low quantum of rain or drought this year;
- (b) whether the Assam Government has submitted any proposal for relief to the farmers and if so, the quantum of the Central aid sought for; and
- (c) the response of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) This year, the Government of Assam has not reported floods in the State. The State Government have, however, declared drought-like situation in 22 out of 27 districts in the State.

(b) and (c) This year, no Memorandum seeking Central assistance for drought relief has so far been received from the Government of Assam. The State Government can, however, utilize the funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for immediate relief measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought, in accordance with the existing itmes and norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds.

Farmer's suicides

1054. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of farmers committing suicide during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) whether Government have identified the suicide prone areas and have sorted out the reasons behind the trend; and
- (c) steps Government contemplate to take in order to curb the menace effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) AStatement on the number of farmers committing